

# BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS

CHUCK MUNZERT, CHAIRMAN

## Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Baltimore County Recreation and Parks Board was held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at Department Headquarters, Cockeysville, Maryland. In attendance were Chuck Munzert, chairman, Greg Heitner, vice chairman; board members Isaac Manjoe, Leslie Monfred, Skip Hammond, Chip Hiebler and Dylan Sloan. Recreation and Parks department staff included Barry F. Williams, director and Bob Smith, chief, Recreation Services. Bryan Sheppard from the Office of Budget and Finance, Property Management Division was in attendance, as well as, Michael Ruby with the Country Chronicle, and Devin Crum, with the Peake.

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Chuck Munzert called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Chip Hiebler motioned to approve the January board meeting minutes, vice chairman Greg Heitner seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Board Member Activities:**

Mr. Hiebler reported that the Baltimore-Highlands Recreation Council meeting was canceled due to inclement weather. He informed board members that the council disbanded the arts and crafts program, and used remaining funds to purchase an air hockey table and a ping-pong table. In addition, Mr. Hiebler is donating a pool table, all to be used by the kids at Lansdowne PAL.

Leslie Monfred attended the Reisterstown Recreation Council meeting and reported that people were asking why it was not posted, that the indoor field at Reisterstown Sportsplex was closed. She further stated that people were still using this field. Bob Smith replied, stating that recreation council programs were instructed to stay off the field. He further stated that the Revenue Authority manages this facility; they rented to other groups. However, Mr. Smith announced that the field is now open. Ms. Monfred asked if there was going to be a ceremony. Mr. Smith replied, stating that there was supposed to be a ceremony, but he was not sure if a date was set.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Mr. Munzert reported that he met with a couple of folks from the Middle River Roundtable, who told him about a facility going to settlement next week. Mr. Munzert stated that the point of contact on the project is Johnny Olszewski, Sr. Mr. Heitner commented, stating that this new group are aggressively looking to hire. Mr. Munzert stated that the group in support of Rt. 43 are supportive of this.

### **Director's Comments:**

Director Barry F. Williams announced that the sixth of seven town hall meetings was taking place tonight at the Maryland State Fairgrounds. These meetings have been overwhelmingly popular, in terms of the number of attendees; however, there have been very few recreation/nature council members in attendance. Mr. Williams commented on the interesting style the County Executive has, allowing people to have their full time to state their question or concerns, remaining patient with everyone. Mr. Munzert replied, stating that he thought the meeting that was held in his district went well.

Mr. Williams stated that he is sure most have heard that Baltimore County has an \$81 million deficit. The County Executive has turned to all departments to look at what each can do. Mr. Williams stated that this administration is looking at more efficient ways of doing things. The administration consists of many new, bright and intelligent people that are asking good questions and involving all departments. Mr. Williams reported that he has had more meetings in the last two months, then with the last administration in total. Moreover, they are listening. Brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Williams reported on the new facility scheduling application, which was launched approximately two weeks ago, stating that the Office Information Technology (OIT) has been very good at working on this. The department has been identifying additional assets that need to be included. Through this application, we will be able to identify the number of facilities that sit vacant, although permitted to a group/user, but not in use. Sites will appear three different ways in the system. The application will show if a site has been taken out for maintenance, if a site is reserved/permitted, and confirmed and up to date, as practice and game schedules are requested three weeks prior to first use. Mr. Williams stated that this is something that we have been asking for, for a long time. All field staff have access to this application.

In addition, Mr. Williams stated that we are revamping the department, looking at how we do things and what makes sense. He informed board members that Chris McCollum's last day with Recreation and Parks was Friday; he is now with Department of Economic and Workforce Development. Mr. McCollum's position will not be replaced; however, Mary de la Reguera, facility manager, will be assigned to the Ag Center, and Susan Cormack, manager at Oregon Ridge Lodge, will oversee administrative matters. Mr. Williams stated that we are getting support to do what we need to do.

Mr. Williams informed board members of his meeting with the North Point Government Center folks, stating that it went well. He recognizes that this site is an anchor to the community, and very near and dear to their hearts.

### **Old Business:**

Regarding Liberty Road Recreation Council travel basketball, Isaac Manjoe reported that the council is working with auditors, and presented the engagement letter to the accountant. The council was planning to meet with the accountants last Saturday. Mr. Hiebler informed board members that the council had received a \$7,500 estimate to conduct the audit. He raised the question as to whether another council could perform the audit. Mr. Manjoe stated that the council would like an independent person to handle this, further stating that there is another individual that could conduct the audit for a reasonable amount.

Mr. Smith reported that he met with appropriate individuals regarding Owings Mills Recreation Council concerns. Discussion ensued. Board members discussed requesting a copy of the council's last financial review, giving the council president 10 days to submit to the board. Mr. Munzert will draft a letter for Lisa Winters to send to the council president requesting this information.

Mr. Hiebler stated that he and Skip Hammond conferred on standard operating procedures for recreation/nature councils, each pulling things together to compile best practices. Mr. Hiebler sent the draft document to Mr. Hammond for review. This will be forwarded to all board members to review, as well.

Mr. Munzert reported on an incident, where a parent approached a coach and reported that there was a volunteer present that was not supposed to be around children. They reviewed the approved volunteer roster and this individual was not listed. The volunteer was addressed, and word of this incident got back to the council executive board. They requested a list of all coaches affiliated with the program, and nine of 16 were not on the approved volunteer roster. Mr. Munzert stated that something must be done! Mr. Munzert and Mr. Hammond spoke with the council president about the issue. Ms. Monfred stated that she believes this is widespread. She stated that some councils are truly making all efforts, while others do not understand the importance. Mr. Hammond stated that if the board finds a program that is non-compliant, then they pull their permits. Board members discussed the executive board listing distributed by Ms. Winters. Discussion ensued regarding its accuracy. Ms. Monfred emphasized the importance of staff getting this information to Ms. Winters. Mr. Manjoe stated that board members should attend the council meetings, confirm changes, and submit to Ms. Winters. Mr. Hammond further stated that board members should check this information with the council president, and submit changes to Ms. Winters. In addition, Ms. Monfred reported that the volunteers want reminders of when their check is ready to expire. Mr. Hiebler stated that this is OIT's contract, and it does not include a reminder. Mr. Williams stated that he has asked that the contract be moved to Recreation and Parks so we can make necessary modifications. Mr. Munzert stated that this issue would be discussed next month, with the Baltimore County Council. Mr. Hiebler stated that he would review Mike Milani's district, and offered to assist other board members.

### **New Business:**

Mr. Munzert briefly discussed two appeals regarding the Chaos softball program, with Catonsville Recreation Council, stating, that this would be tabled until Ms. Winters forwarded the information to all board members, for review.

Board members briefly talked about items for discussion for the upcoming dinner, with the Baltimore County Council. Mr. Munzert asked board members to contact him with items for discussion.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business, Mr. Hiebler moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Heitner seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Winters